MR. A. K. KUMARAN VAIDYAN: അങ്ങനെ എന്തെങ്കിലും പരാതി കിട്ടിയാൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറ വേണ്ടതു ചെയ്യുമോ?

MR. S. RAMAKRISHNA AIYAR: ചെയ്യാം.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether after the receipt of this interpellatian, they have enquired into the matter?

MR. S. RAMAKRISHNA AIYAR: The Division Peishkar has reported that no articles has been brought and sold in the market on non-market days.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member is not at liberty to refer to confidential reports.

Sheds in the Adikulam Market.

99. *MR. A. K. KUMARAN VAIDYAN: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the sheds in the Adikulam Market in Parur taluk are in a ruined condition; and

(*b*) if so, why they are not repairing and thatching the roof?

MR. S. RAMAKRISHNA AIYAR: (*a*) Yes, to some extent due to Cyclone.

(*b*) The repairs are being attended to.

Salt Manufacture.

100. *MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have issued orders to the effect that the manufacture of salt should be stopped for 5 months or thereabout;

(*b*) the number of labourers in the salt factories, who would be affected by the said order;

(*c*) whether such labourers have any chance for any subsidiary work during the period of the suspension of their usual work in the salt factories; and

(*d*) whether it is not possible to obtain markets in India for Travancore salt?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) About 1616 labourers.

(*c*) Information is not available.

(*d*) Enquiries are being made.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: May I know whether, when they are able to secure markets for the sale of salt, they will be pleased to modify this rule?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: When that is obtained it is possible to revise the order.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: May I know whether Government have not received orders from the Government of India for the supply of salt?

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PRESIDENT: I think I dealt with the matter yesterday. We should not disclose the matter any further. There are many competitors. We are not the only people who have salt to sell. We have got the support of the Government of India and I should thankfully acknowledge that help. But that is not all. There are many intermediary stages, some of which confidential and others not confidential. Under these circumstances, it is well that we do not go into the details.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: Answer to Part (*b*) is that about 1616 labourers would be affected; and answer to Part (*c*) is that the information is not available. I wish to know whether it is because the Department is unmindful of the labourers in the Salt factories.

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: No, Sir. If there is too much of surplus Salt it will have to be put back to the brine. It is to save that contingency that this order has been passed.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI (*Tovala* cum *Agastisvaram*): May I know whether it is possible to sell the whole salt?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: If foreign market is obtained it will be possible to do so.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: May I know the purpose of this order?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: It is to prevent excess salt being accumulated year after year.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: May I know whether there were not petitions from all licensees that this order should be cancelled and if so, the action taken thereon?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: A petition was received last week from some licensees, and that is being considered.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: In view of the large excess of the salt production, is it not possible for the Government to reduce the cost of salt?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: The cost of salt does not depend upon production alone. There are other circumstances and matters to be looked into.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know the reasons which stand in the way of Government for reducing the price of salt?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: We are under obligation with the British Government so far as the duty of salt is concerned.

Transport Department Printing.

101. * **MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the name of the person or persons who are entrusted with the printing works required for the Transport Department;

(*b*) the terms of the existing contract;

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